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Sixty-sixth year

Note verbale dated 13 October 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations has the honour to transmit herewith a Declaration by the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba, dated 11 October 2011, for circulation as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109, and of the Security Council (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 13 October 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration

On 7 October of this year the Cuban anti-terrorism fighter René González Sehweret was released from Marianna Prison in northern Florida, United States of America, after 13 years of unjust imprisonment.

Since their incarceration in 1998, René González Sehweret and his comrades Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez and Fernando González Llort have suffered cruel and degrading conditions of imprisonment and have been subjected to all kinds of pressure and abuses, including separation from their families. All of the hatred of which they have been victims has not succeeded in shattering their faith and with extraordinary stoicism and admirable strength of character throughout it all they have exhibited exemplary behaviour as prisoners.

The dignity and nobility displayed by our five comrades in refusing to abandon their principles under any circumstances, together with the motives of political revenge that marked the court proceedings that were used to convict the Five, are what led Judge Joan Lenard to impose a new and unjustified punishment on René, denying on 16 September a motion to allow him to return to Cuba and rejoin his family and his people following his release from prison.

The judge's ruling, which reaffirms the special and additional condition prohibiting René, following his release from prison, "from associating with or visiting specific places where individuals or groups such as terrorists, ... are known to be or frequent," which was included at the express request of the Government, constitutes incontrovertible proof that anti-Cuban terrorists continue to enjoy total impunity and the support of the United States authorities.

For more than 50 years successive administrations in that country have harboured anti-Cuba terrorism and have protected individual terrorists and terrorist organizations on their territory. These people, responsible for so much death and suffering, live there in conditions of complete normalcy, with priority access to the mass media and total impunity to organize and promote terrorism against our country. The very acknowledgement of this reality by the judge and the Government confirms the state of necessity that compelled us to penetrate the terrorist groups and demonstrates that the harsh sentences imposed on the Five were aimed at protecting the real terrorists, such as Luis Posada Carriles, who are living undisturbed in Florida.

It is certain that the United States Government knows perfectly well that requiring René to reside in United States territory constitutes a serious threat to his life and physical safety. The United States authorities will bear the responsibility for whatever may happen.

Awareness of the cause of the Five is growing around the world. Thousands of men and women in every place and from all walks of life have joined the fight for their release, including many parliamentarians and legislative bodies. We express our gratitude to these men and women on behalf of the Five and their families, who

are also victims of great injustice, for their support for efforts to secure their freedom.

This has not been an easy road, however, nor is it now, since we are up against the pursuit of revenge, the hatred and the obsession that have always dominated the United States in its dealings with Cuba because it has not succeeded in subduing our people. We are also up against the stony silence about this case in the media, which, with very few exceptions, have made no reference whatsoever to this injustice.

We firmly believe that with solidarity all things are possible and that just causes are bound to triumph over lies and injustice. Accordingly, we call upon all parliaments and all members of parliaments, all political and social forces and groups committed to truth and justice, all decent men and women around the world, to exert their influence to get President Barack Obama of the United States to do what he must do: allow René to return immediately to his family and free the four comrades who have shared his struggle and captivity.

Let us do all that we can to ensure that justice is done.